the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIM 1

1. (Amended) A nonionic surfactant comprising an aliphatic alcohol alkylene oxide adduct (A),

said (A) being directly produced by adding an alkylene oxide (b1) to an aliphatic alcohol (a1) and satisfying the following (i), (ii) and (iii):

(i) comprising one compound represented by the following formula (1) or a mixture of two or more thereof:

$$R^1O\text{-}[(C_2H_4O)_m/(AO)_n] - (C_2H_4O)_p\text{-}H \qquad (1)$$

wherein R^1 is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group containing 8-24 carbon atoms or a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon group containing 8-24 carbon atoms; A is an alkylene group containing at least 3 carbon atoms; m is 0 or an integer of 1 or more, the average thereof being in the range of 0-4, n is 0 or an integer of 1 or more, the average thereof being in the range of 0-3, p is 0 or an [oran] integer of 1 or more, the average thereof being in the range of 1-80, (m+n+p) is an integer, the average thereof being in the range of 3-81, and the average of (m+p)/(m+n+p) is at least 0.5; and, in the case of m 0 and n 0, {(C_2H_4O)m/(AO)n} represents block addition or random addition; (ii) having a ratio Mw/Mn of a weight-average molecular weight (Mw) to a number-average molecular weight (Mn) satisfying the following relation (2) or (3):

$$Mw/Mn \leq 0.030 \times Ln(v) + 1.010 \quad (\text{in case of } v < 10) \qquad (2)$$

$$Mw/Mn \leq -0.026 \times Ln(v) + 1.139 \quad (\text{in case of } v \geq 10) \qquad (3)$$

wherein v represents the average of (m+n+p) in the above general formula (1); and

(iii) having a distribution constant (c), determined by the following equation (4), of 1.0 or less, this being required only in case of v up to 12:

$$c = (v + n_0/n_{00} - 1/(Ln(n_{00}/n_0[n]) + + n_0/n_{00} - 1) \quad (4)$$

wherein v is the same in the above, n_{00} represents the molar number of the aliphatic alcohol (a1) used in the reaction, and n_0 represents the molar number of the aliphatic alcohol (a1) unreacted.